

## **ORDERS**

## **Todd County Fiscal Court**

March 9, 2009

5:00 p.m.

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The Fiscal Court in and for Todd County met in Special Session at the Courthouse at 5:00 p.m. and the following proceedings were had. Present and presiding, Honorable Arthur W. Green, County Judge Executive. The following gentleman, Magistrates, were present:

Roy Addison, Howard Gorrell, Bobby Rager, Brent Spurlin and Jimmy Turner

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The Court opened with the pledge of allegiance, followed by a prayer by Judge Arthur Green.

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- Junior Wright with the Department of Local Government and Andrew Hartley, attorney for the Department of Local Government were present to answer any questions regarding the budget.
  - Mr. Wright informed the Court that the State itself has had to cut 25% from their budget and that several other Counties are also in the same shape as Todd County.
  - Judge Green noted that he and the Treasurer have contacted the DLG on numerous occasions for help in balancing Todd County's budget.
  - Squire Rager asked what the DLG looks at on a budget. Mr. Wright replied that a simple math check is performed to make sure that all figures match, also they look at previous budget numbers and finally they check the mandated lines.
  - Squire Rager asked if these cuts should have been made when the budget was put together. Mr. Wright replied that cuts should be made in the beginning but that it is understood that some unforeseen will occur.
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- The purpose of this Special Meeting was to go over the budget with the Court giving recommendations as to where cuts should be made in order to balance the budget.
  - Per Judge Green, the County will start the next fiscal year with approximately \$350,000.00 due in accounts payable. Judge Green also noted that as of now, the County will end this fiscal year with approximately \$15,543.17 in the general fund.

- Todd County Treasurer, Tammy Robertson, informed the Court that approximately \$2,000.00 has been collected from delinquent occupational taxes.
- Judge Green stated that this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to review the budget and the only thing left to cut is personal and benefits. Mr. Green also noted that either cuts must be made or the County must raise revenue by increasing insurance tax, property tax, net profit tax or payroll tax.
- Squire Addison stated that he wanted certain items cut out when the budget was being set at the end of the last fiscal year and the Court would not back him then. Mr. Addison disagreed that raising taxes was the way to balance the budget.
- Judge Green noted that the insurance tax must be in to the State by March 23<sup>rd</sup> in order for it to go into effect in July. If nothing is done, it will be held until next year. All other taxes can be discussed at any time.
- Squire Spurlin stated that no one wants to cut departments or employee benefits and they need to look at cutting the health benefits of the elected officials as well. He stated that the public needs to obtain information about the budget other places besides the coffee shop talk.
- Mr. John Camp asked questions about taxes and types of taxes. Stating he felt the insurance tax was probably the fairest. He asked magistrates about their views, and Squires Rager, Turner and Gorrell stated they would support a 6% insurance tax.

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- Upon motion of Squire Turner, seconded by Squire Gorrell, it is hereby ordered to adjourn.
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- Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

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Todd County Judge Executive  
Arthur W. Green